

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Reducing school district mandates

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### Overview

Proposes to reduce unneeded mandates impacting school districts.

- 1 School boards; interactive technology with an audio and visual link.** Allows a school board to conduct meetings using interactive technology with an audio and visual link if the board complies with other requirements governing meetings of local units of government.
- 2 Revisions and reviews required.** (a) Directs the education commissioner to revise and align the state's academic standards and graduation requirements consistent with the statutorily established review cycle and rulemaking requirements under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14, but prohibits the commissioner from finally adopting revised and realigned academic standards and graduation requirements in rule without specific legislative authority.  
  
(f) Postpones by one year the review of the state's academic standards and graduation requirements in social studies.  
  
Makes this section effective immediately.
- 3 Annuity contract; payroll allocation.** Gives local school boards the ability to determine the identity and number of vendors of federal 403(b) service-based retirement plans for school employees instead of having the determination made as part of the collective bargaining agreement between the school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers.  
  
Makes this section effective July 1, 2011.
- 4 Community education director.** Allows a school board of a school district with fewer than 10,000 residents, instead of 2,000 residents, to identify a person with a valid Minnesota principal or superintendent license to serve as the community education director.  
  
Makes this section effective immediately.
- 5 Rulemaking.** Prohibits the education commissioner from adopting new special education rules or amending existing special education rules without specific legislative authority. Exempts technical

changes and corrections from this prohibition.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 6**      **Safe schools levy.** Strikes the maintenance of effort requirements that school districts use a portion of safe school levy proceeds to pay for school counselors and other school professionals and that districts expend the same amounts they previously expended on employee services or equivalent numbers of full-time employees.

- 7**      **Reserved revenue for staff development.** For the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years only, allows school districts and charter schools to use revenue reserved for staff development instead for general and special school purposes.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2011.

- 8**      **Fund transfers.** (a) Allows the education commissioner to approve a district's fund transfer request if the transfer does not increase state aid obligations to the district or result in additional property tax authority for the district. Excludes community fund and food service fund transfers from the effect of this paragraph.

(b) Allows a school board to approve a fund transfer under paragraph (a) only after adopting a resolution that the transfer will not diminish students' instructional opportunities.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 9**      **Repealer.** Immediately repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.05, imposing a January 15 collective bargaining agreement deadline and aid penalty.